Framework Title: From Extractive to Relational AI

I. Definition

Extractive AI refers to systems designed to maximize performance by harvesting data, attention, or behavior from individuals or communities without meaningful consent, context, or reciprocity. It mirrors colonial and capitalist models of resource extraction.

Relational AI is an alternative approach that centers relationships, accountability, and care. It views data as embedded in living contexts, and knowledge as collective, situated, and sacred. Relational AI is not built *on* communities but *with* and *for* them.

II. Core Pillars of the Relational AI Framework

1. **Consent as Process, Not Checkbox**
2. Establish ongoing, community-led protocols for informed and collective consent.
3. Include mechanisms for withdrawal, redirection, or refusal.
4. **Contextual Integrity**
5. Preserve the original context of data: when, where, by whom, and for what purpose it was created.
6. Embed metadata and community-defined parameters around meaning and use.
7. **Collective Knowledge Stewardship**
8. Recognize knowledge as communal and often intergenerational.
9. Allow communities to curate, annotate, and update their contributions.
10. **Reciprocity and Return**
11. Ensure AI systems return value to the communities that shaped them.
12. Reciprocity may take the form of visibility, infrastructure, care, or healing.
13. **Situated Evaluation**
14. Evaluate AI models not just by accuracy or scale, but by cultural alignment, ethical resonance, and lived impact.
15. Community panels define what "success" means.
16. **Ritual and Rest**

17. Integrate cycles of pause, listening, and reflection.
18. Models are not constantly in production; they are held in rhythm with the community.

III. Shifting Questions

From "What can this model do?" to "Who does this model serve, and how do we care for them?"

From "Is it accurate?" to "Is it aligned with the values of those it represents?"

From "Can we scale this?" to "Should this be scaled, or held small and sacred?"

IV. Conclusion

To move from extractive to relational AI is not simply a technical shift. It is an epistemic and ethical transformation. It demands humility, listening, and reparation. It reimagines AI not as an autonomous force, but as a tool for collective flourishing, rooted in memory, responsibility, and respect.